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REPORT NO

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Mexico/Spain

SUBJECT Removal of Felipe Munoz Arconada as Secretary  
258888A General of the PCE in Mexico

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

- B-2 1. Felipe Munoz Arconada, who is known also as Felipe M. Arconada, was replaced during June 1950 as Secretary General of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) in Mexico by Antonio Ruiz Hidalgo.\* In Spanish Stalinist circles subject's poor eyesight and poor health are given as the reasons for his replacement.
- B-3 2. According to another report, Munoz Arconada was dismissed as a result of his alleged Titoist sympathies. The source stated that at the time of the Stalin-Tito rupture, Munoz Arconada, who was associated closely with Tito during the Spanish civil war, made some attempt to defend Tito in Spanish Communist circles. After this incident, subject was seen less and less at the Federacion de Organismos de Ayuda a la Republica Espanola (FOARE), the chief Spanish Communist front organization in Mexico. According to source, Munoz Arconada has been in disagreement with Luis Garcia Lago, Secretary General of the Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSUC), who replaced Juan Comorera in this position. Subject also has had disagreements with Francisco Celis, who was sent to Mexico by the Spanish Stalinists in France to act as the real leader of the PCE in Mexico. Source noted that Munoz Arconada has not signed the most recent peace manifesto sponsored by the Local Spanish Communists.
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- B-2 3. [REDACTED] has provided the following biographic information on subject:
- a. Munoz Arconada was born in Madrid, Spain, in early 1912 of middle class parents. He began his schooling in 1916 and graduated in 1926, at the age of 14, as a Bachelor of Sciences and Letters. In 1929 he began to work for various liberal newspapers and in 1940 joined the Communist Party of Spain, working as a propagandist and at times collaborating with Jose Diaz, Secretary General of the PCE.
- b. After the formation of the Spanish Republic in 1931 he made several trips to France in a liaison capacity between the PCE and the French Communist Party and continued his work as a propagandist for the Party. In 1934, when the rebellion of the miners in Asturias began, he was arrested by the police as a dangerous radical but was not imprisoned.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2005

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- c. Shortly thereafter he went to France but returned in January 1935 to participate in the direction of the PCE with Vicente Uribe and Antonio Mije in the elections of the Popular Front. After the Popular Front had been successful in the elections, he worked in Barcelona with the PSUC with Pedro Boix and Jose Satue.
- d. When the Spanish Civil War began in 1936, he took part in the defense of Madrid and later had a part in the formation of the famous 5th Regiment under Vittorio Vidali. During the war he acted as Cultural Commissar for the Army of the Ebro and carried on his work as a propagandist and as a liaison agent between the Spanish Communists in Barcelona and those in France.
- e. In April 1939 he went to France, where he was placed in a concentration camp, probably at Vernet. Through the efforts of the Communist Party of France, he was able to leave the concentration camp, and with the assistance of the CTAL and the Communist Party of Mexico he was able to enter Mexico as a political refugee at the port of Veracruz on 28 August 1940.
- f. Soon after his arrival he began to work on the formation of the PCE in Mexico. In this he collaborated with Jose Armisen and Jesus Izcaray. These two individuals and subject were among the founders of Espana Popular and later Nuestra Bandera. By 1945 he had become one of the leaders of the Spanish Communist group in Mexico. He took an important part in the formation of the FOARE and in 1947 aided in the formation of the Comission de Ayuda a las Guerrillas de Levante and continues to the present time to collect money with which to purchase medicine and arms for the guerrillas.

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Comment. It is believed that Antonio Ruiz Hidalgo is identical with Antonio Ruiz Hidalgo Fernandez, a director of the Juventudes Socialistas Unificadas (Unified Socialist Youth) in Mexico City, and a member of the PCE. Ruiz came to Mexico in May 1945, following residence in Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

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